

DID YOU KNOW... ?

- Did you know that Joseph Smith's claim of seeing God and Christ in the spring of 1820 was virtually unknown to Mormons until the 1880's? **Most early Mormon leaders (Joseph Smith included) repeatedly taught that the "First Vision" was only a vision of an angel** (see www.JosephLied.com for numerous "First Vision" quotes).
- Did you know that Joseph Smith had at least 34 wives and that **nine of his first twelve wives were still married to their first husbands when Joseph Smith took them for himself** (visit www.FamilySearch.org for proof)?
- Did you know that **Joseph Smith even married a pair of sisters who were only 14 and 16 years old?**
- Did you know that in 1843 some men in Kinderhook, Illinois created a small set of brass plates with some illegible engravings on them in an attempt to fool Joseph Smith into "translating" their plates, thus proving that Smith was a fraud? They succeeded! Joseph Smith said of the "ancient" plates (known widely as the "Kinderhook Plates"), **"I have translated a portion of them, and find that they contain the history of the person with whom they were found. He was a descendant of Ham, through the loins of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and that he received his kingdom from the Ruler of Heaven and earth"** (*History of the Church* 5:372).
- Did you know that the Egyptian papyri that was the original source for the *Book of Abraham* (found in the Mormon book of scripture called the *Pearl of Great Price*) was re-discovered in 1967 and upon close examination was found to be a common Egyptian funeral prayer known as the *Book of Breathings*? **Even Mormon Egyptologists admitted that "...when one compares the text of the book of Abraham with a translation of the Book of Breathings; they clearly are not the same"** (*Ensign*, July 1988, 51).
- **Did you know that for over 170 years Mormon leaders have taught that millions of people died in massive battles using steel weapons and armor at and around the Hill Cumorah in New York?** Even Mormon General Authority, *Bruce R. McConkie*, said, **"Both the Nephite and Jaredite civilizations fought their final great wars of extinction at and near the Hill Cumorah (or Ramah as the Jaredites termed it), which hill is located between Palmyra and Manchester in the western part of the State of New York"** (*Mormon Doctrine*, 174). This flies in the face of conventional wisdom and contradicts the opinion of every single legitimate anthropologist who has ever spoken on the subject including those at the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Natural History in New York (see www.JosephLied.com for numerous quotes from Mormon leaders on the location of the Book of Mormon's "Hill Cumorah").
- **Did you know that from 1835 to 1921 Mormon scripture taught that God was simply a spirit and only Christ had a physical body?** This belief can be found in the *Lectures on Faith* 5:2. The *Lectures on Faith* were canonized scripture and part of the *Doctrine and Covenants* from 1835 until 1921.
- Did you know that the *Book of Mormon* has had nearly 4,000 changes made to it since 1830? **The Doctrine and Covenants has also undergone thousands of changes since it was first introduced as the Book of Commandments in 1833.** In fact, many of the changes made to the *D&C* were so significant that they prompted *Book of Mormon* witness David Whitmer to write, **"Is it possible that the minds of men can be so blinded as to believe that God would give these revelations... and then afterwards command them to change and add to them some words which change the meaning entirely? Is it possible that a man who pretends to any spirituality would believe that God would work in any such manner"** (*An Address to All Believers in Christ*, 1887)?
- **Did you know that Brigham Young clearly taught from the pulpit the belief that Adam was in fact God in the flesh and that Eve was one of God's many wives?** He also taught that **we can become Gods and Goddesses** and that we too can one day become Adams' and Eves' on our own planet that we will rule over as Gods (see *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, 50-51, vol. 5, 331, and *Deseret News*, June 18, 1873).

Many sources, including copies of the original 1830 Book of Mormon and the 1835 Doctrine & Covenants can be viewed online at www.irr.org/mit and/or www.utlm.org.

If you are LDS and are questioning your faith in Mormonism, rest assured, you are not alone. In fact, Mormonism has one of the lowest membership retention rates of any religion in the United States. Thousands of people leave Mormonism every year and discover the **real** gospel of Jesus Christ. His gospel isn't a complex "institution", but rather a very simple set of beliefs that can be found in the Bible.

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